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THE MUSKET

LEXINGTON HIGH SCHOOL

April 2005 Volume 6; Issue 5

Jones Vetos Military Recruitment Bill

By Eric Eid-Reiner

On March 30, Principal Dr. Michael Jones decided to veto the newly passed Military Recruitment Bill, which would prohibit recruiters from any group or organization that discriminates based on sexual orientation from operating on the LHS campus.

After much heated discussion over the course of a few months, the Senate finally passed the bill on March 23 with a vote of 33-10. Jones had ten school days from March 23 in which to either approve or veto the bill.

In his veto announcement to the LHS Student Faculty Senate, Jones expressed his support of the Senate in its questioning of the United States armed services' "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, stating that the policy is "certainly different from, if not incompatible with, the Lexington school district's non-discrimination policy." He also expressed, however, concerns about the potential anti-military perception of LHS as a result of the passage of the bill. Instead of banning the military from LHS, Jones suggested continuing discussion and participation in the political process, and writing letters to congressmen and the local media.

Jones stated that another reason for vetoing the bill was that he was "reasonably sure we would have to deal with legal challenges from one source or another." To the knowledge of the LHS Senate, however, other neighboring schools have enacted similar policies without legal consequence.

When asked about the positive impact this bill might have had on the feelings of safety and acceptance for LHS' Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender community and its straight allies, Jones responded in an interview that he "could not get inside the heads of the gay students at LHS."

Photo Credit: Jessica Green

Secretary Lexy Smith, Moderator Ben Skier, and Asst. Moderator Jim Williams bring the Student-Faculty Senate meeting to order.

When the principal vetoes a bill, it can only be overridden with a ¾ majority vote in the Senate, and an appeal to the Lexington School Committee to uphold their override. After Jones' address, the Senate voted 29-12 in favor of overriding the veto, just two votes short of the 75% minimum needed in order for the bill to move to the School Committee.

Several senators who had originally voted in favor of the bill were opposed to overriding the veto. Senate Assistant Moderator and math teacher Jim Williams did not believe that the School Committee would back the Senate in this issue. Williams felt that a compromise bill might be more effective in keeping the issue under discussion, rather than potentially "wasting weeks" by going to the School Committee.

The Senate, however, had already debated an alternative bill, which was introduced just after the February break. It required recruiters seeking access to the LHS campus to assert in writing that their organization does not discriminate on the basis of race, gender, color, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, age, or disability.

This second bill would have still allowed groups that do discriminate to be invited to recruit at LHS. This would be at the discretion of the principal, provided that a representative of that organization meets with the LHS student body in a public forum to explain and discuss their policy. The organization would also have to provide a written description of the portion of their policy that is in conflict with the non-discrimination policy of the Lexington Public School system. Several Senate members viewed this bill as a moderate compromise, while others referred to it as "watered-down" and "missing the point."

Guidance counselor and senator Melissa Buttaro said that she felt the substitute bill "gets away from the original intent of the first bill" and presents the school with a "logistical nightmare." GSA Senate representative Bobbie Beyer stressed that the primary goal of the original bill was to ensure the welfare of LHS students, and not to make a political statement. Beyer explained that according to the alternative bill, the "unsafe feeling that non-heterosexual students feel when walking by the army tables" would not be eliminated if the Military and other discriminating groups were still allowed to recruit students at LHS.

Its sponsors saw this substitute bill as a compromise that would not focus on the military or on discrimination based on sexual orientation alone. At the March 16 Senate meeting, language was added to the bill's rationale to indicate that the mention of recruiters from the U.S. armed forces is solely intended to challenge the current "Don't Ask, Don't Tell" policy, and is not an attack upon the military itself or the current wars in Iraq and Afghanistan.

Senior James Lee expressed concern at a recent Senate meeting that passage of either bill would make LHS appear to be unsupportive of our military. He explained, "The ban [of military recruiters] will directly affect military recruitment, because it would destroy the visibility that is critical to recruitment success."

Sophomore and senator Tom Burnett remarked, "It is both unwise and unnecessary to pass

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Veto Time on Weighted GPA Bill Extended

By Hannah Hsieh

Principal Michael Jones has once again asked the LHS Student Faculty Senate for an extension of the veto time on the weighted grade point average bill passed earlier this year. The bill, if implemented, would completely eliminate the weighted GPA from the school's record keeping. Jones received permission to consider the bill until May 1.

Although Jones said he supported the proposal and had gained support from both the school council and the curriculum cabinet (department heads and coordinators), he wished to have more time to make a formal presentation to the Parent Student Teachers Association (PTSA) in early April, and to the town school committee.

The bill, which has raised a number of protests from various students, if adopted will not go into effect for anyone currently enrolled at LHS. Jones said that he was leaning toward grandfathering all current LHS students into the weighted system and then initiating a totally unweighted system with next

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Sophomore Open Campus Put on Hold

Sensing a distinct lack of support from upper-class students and a divided faculty, the the LHS Student Faculty Senate recently tabled a proposed bill which, if passed, would have granted open campus to sophomores during the fourth quarter. The bill would have required sophomore students to have a 3.0 cumulative grade point average and 10 hours of completed community service to be eligible, and would have been put into motion as a experiment this spring.

The tabled proposal was a modification by the Senate Policy Committee of an earlier bill introduced by senior Senator Jesse Paulsen. The new version would have also made open campus contingent upon the opening of the various computer centers around LHS for student use during their free blocks. This effort was put forward to relieve anticipated pressure upon the library if sophomores were given open campus. According to preliminary information obtained from the guidance department, 374 sophomores would have been eligible under the 3.0 GPA requirement, but only 204 when the community service requirement was factored in.

Some senators voiced opposition to the bill because they felt the criteria for eligibility was too high. Others, especially a number of faculty senators, thought extending open campus would lead to more rowdy or at least noisy behavior around LHS. Another sticking point was a provision in the bill which would have required the newly freed sophomores to remain on campus during their free time. At least two senators pointed out how difficult it would be to enforce such a provision.

With the bill now in limbo and the fourth quarter in progress, there seems to be little chance that any sophomores will gain the privilege of open campus during the 2005 spring term. Strangely, few sophomore senators voiced much support for the bill, though all who spoke felt that study halls were often unproductive and inconvenient.

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Students Advance to State Science Fair

By Christiana Kim

All the hard work spent by LHS students paid off at the annual LHS science fair on Tuesday, March 8th in the LHS field house. Students presented their year-long accomplishments to a series of judges, comprised of members of the Lexington community. Fair participants were excused from Thursday's last block to set up their tri-boards and visuals for presentation.

Out of the two hundred projects exhibited in the field house, thirty-eight were selected to advance to the Regional IV Science Fair at Somerville High School on March 18. The winners of the Somerville fair then move on to the MA State Science Fair.

Twenty LHS students advanced from the

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History Day Winners Move to State Level

By Jessica Green

This year, hundreds of students throughout the country were involved in the annual National History Day Competition. Students submitted research papers, table-top displays, and media projects in hopes of reaching the national competition. Each year, a general theme is chosen under which all of the submitted projects must fall under. The theme this year was "Communication in History: The Key to Understanding."

All the participating students set up their projects in the library media classroom, and several LHS history teachers served as judges and asked the students questions about their projects. Four students in the table-top division were chosen to advance to regionals: sophomores

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Photo Credit: Jessica Green

The white-faced Dresden Dolls cast gets ready to perform for Winterfest

Winterfest Theater Warms Things Up

By Alexandra Dimodica

This year's annual Winterfest held in the Black Box theater and the auditorium on February 3rd, 4th, and 5th thrilled and intrigued audiences. Consisting of improvisation and student directed plays, Winterfest exhibited talent and true artistic initiative. In all of the plays, the audience could clearly see the camaraderie and energy of the performers.

The night was full of emotional highs and lows. On one side of the pendulum, laughter rang through the Black Box during A Walk to Remember, Forbidden Love, Pata Physics Baby, and Improv Troupe. The auditorium had a more intense ambiance as Different Shades of Black, Silence, and The Dresden Dolls Piece illuminated the stage. Unclassifiable, The Bald Soprano left the audience somewhat dazed and confused. This piece was very well executed and directed, but its true meaning was left a mystery to the audience.

Overall, Winterfest was a success for its artistic expression, laughter, and exemplary student involvement. One enthusiastic actress and a star of Forbidden Love, freshman Susanna Tracy exclaimed, "Part of what I like about Winterfest is that it is so much fun... It's an activity with friends. It's also so great that it's student run, and involves nice peer interaction and free expression." Future Winterfest productions are definitely worth attending and participating in.

Winter Jam Debut Draws Large Crowd

By Aditi Dugar

As the lights went out Thursday night, March 3, a hush fell over the enormous crowd in Commons II at LHS's first Winter Jamboree A Cappella Concert. For years, numerous students had tried to convince Brian O'Connell, head of the LHS Choral Department, to add Winter Jam to the already established annual Fall and Spring Jams. Finally in 2005, the LHS National Honors Society fulfilled their request and Winter Jam was born.

The show opened with the musical talent of Sorstis, a newly formed all-female freshman a cappella group. The crowd settled down in their seats to listen, and from the applauding and cheering at the end, it was clear that Sorstis was a success. Following Sorstis came the jazz a cappella group CQU, Zest, two Valentine quartets, Euphoria, Pitchpipes, and Mixed Nuts.

In between, the student emcees of the evening, seniors Philip Walzer and Scott Yarmovsky, squeezed some laughs from the audience by introducing the groups and "making attempts at humor," according to Walzer.

Guacamole was the only LHS a capella group that did not perform, because they had too many members missing from their group. Many groups were missing members, but Euphoria spun the problem to their advantage, introducing junior Pat Hogan, a Pitchpipe, as a guest star that evening.

Asian Night Donates to Tsunami Relief

By David Maltzan

LHS's annual Asian Night took place Friday March 4, in Commons 2. The Asian Culture Club and South Asian Club combined forces to entertain a large crowd with dancing and music from East and South Asia. Senior Sarah Wong, co-president of Asian Culture Club, was the emcee.

Before the entertainment began, the audience filled their plates with food served buffet-style. The first performer, junior Renuka Bhisetti performed "Swagatham Krishna" in the Indian classical dance style of Bharatnatyam. She was followed by senior Crystal Chang, performing a traditional Chinese dance. Kim Huang, a regular at LHS Asian Nights, sang Taiwanese folk songs accompanied by her husband George on guitar. The Huangs were the only non-student performers.

Senior Joyce Sun and LHS alumni David Schaffner performed another complicated Chinese dance, first as partners and then each dancing solo. Junior Samina Hossain then gave a beautiful rendition of a

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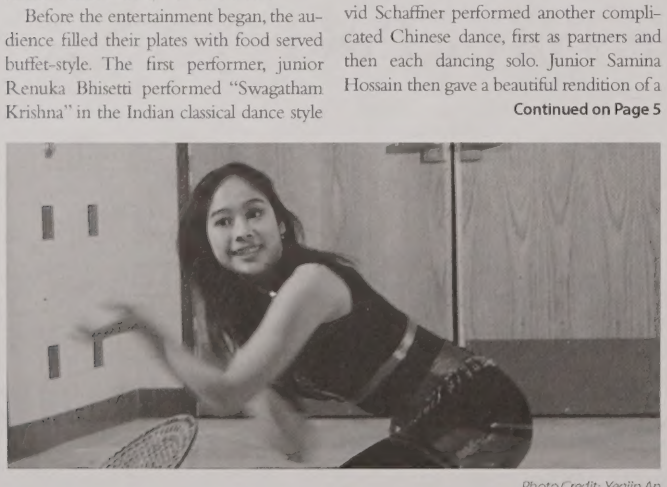
Photo Credit: Yeajin An

Crystal Chang performed Chinese dance named "Rainforest" at the Asian Night.

Photo Credit: Hannah Hsieh

Science Team members Joseph Chang, Jason Leung, Shelley Yang, Andrew Ho, and Albert Chen pose with coach Hogan as NSB Regional champions.

Science Team Wins Big

By Amelia Servi

In the early days of February you may have seen the LHS National Science Bowl (NSB) team buzzing around school in their bright blue team shirts. If you ventured close enough, you would have heard them chattering excitedly about their upcoming science competition.

On February 12, the team's hard work and dedication paid off when the LHS A team won first place at the regional competition held at the University of Southern Maine. The first place win out of 16 teams from Massachusetts, Maine, Vermont and New Hampshire secured the A team a trip to Washington DC in April to compete against 65 other teams from around the nation for the national title.

The NSB team, headed by faculty advisor and physics teacher John Hogan and senior captain Shelley Yang, has been a popular club at LHS for many years. Tryouts are held every fall, resulting in the formation of an A, B, C and (for the first time this year) D team. According

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Photo Credit: Mr. Nocito

Mr. Nocito's new law class visits the East Boston District Court for a field trip.

19 Students Complete Nocito's New Criminal Law Elective Course

By Jessica Green

Criminal Law instructor James Nocito and Detective Kristen French from the Lexington Police Department are pleased to announce that 19 LHS students successfully completed the new law elective, Criminal Law for Future Public Safety Personnel. This course is specifically designed for students desiring a career in law enforcement. The course content includes: crimes against people and property, criminal and constitutional law for police officers, civil liability and the police, motor vehicles laws, and domestic violence.

Students were invited to attend three field trips: a five hour visit to the Massachusetts State Police Forensic Lab, the Boston Police Academy, and the East Boston District Court and Boston Police Area A7. Students were exposed to first hand situations that most civilians would never have a chance to experience. The course ended with a dinner celebration at Bertucci's in Cambridge, as a graduation present to the students from Nocito and French.

During an awards ceremony, senior James Lee was awarded the highest academic average, junior Willi Ballintin was awarded the best term paper, and senior Lauren Rouse was awarded the student of the semester. This current semester, 18 new 'recruits' have elected this academically rigorous course. We wish them good luck and continued success.

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More Should Be Aware of Stellar LHS Jazz Program

By Josiah Reibstein

Not long ago, the Lexington High School Jazz Ensemble, Jazz Combo, Jazz Septet, and a jazz vocal group called CQU competed in a national competition held at the Berklee School of Music in Boston. The Berklee Jazz Festival, held every year, attracts groups from as far as California. All of these musicians perform throughout the day; the participants are later ranked, according to ability, in a public awards ceremony.

This year Lexington nearly swept the awards. Both the Jazz Combo and the Jazz Ensemble received first place in the categories of small ensemble and large ensemble, respectively. The Jazz Septet, a student-directed group, received an honorable mention - advancing far above an innumerable number of combos directed by professional teachers. And CQU, also student-directed, placed third in the category of vocal jazz.

As well as the four groups that placed in the competition, three student instrumentalists also received Outstanding Musicianship awards - that is three Lexington students who won in a competition that spans throughout the US. Most schools would be proud to have just one such winner.

But none of these awards, individual or collective, were mentioned in the Lexington Minuteman. In fact, the Minuteman did not mention LHS's participation in the jazz festival at all. It was a big win for LHS jazz students and the groups who worked so hard to compete deserve some recognition for their achievements.

It is not just the town newspaper that does not seem to recognize LHS jazz students, but it seems that most LHS students and faculty have very little knowledge of the LHS Jazz Program, one of the best in the state, if not the country. Some people don't even realize that there is a combo at our school, while others don't differentiate between the Ensemble and the Septet. The Jazz Nites, held four times a year at the end of each quarter in Commons I, are sparely attended - filled only by family members and participants of the music department; a good number of the attendees leave before the award-winning combo takes the stage. The Jazz Band concerts are even more meagerly viewed. And the Combo, which performs once a year at the Hartwell House and in other locales around town, gains a less than substantial audience.

More people should realize what an excellent program the LHS Jazz Department is. We have great sports teams as well, but our music groups are just as important as the lacrosse tournaments and football games. The Combo sounds like a professional group in its best moments. The Septet and Ensemble are full of talented players - people you see from day-to-day, in class, walking in the hallways, who stand up from time to time to play out in front of others.

They play good music, and don't miss the opportunity to be involved with it.

Credit Requirements Hamper Choice

By Andrew Yegian

The magic number is 104 - the number of credits that are required for graduation. Why 104? Few actually know the reason behind this seemingly arbitrary number, but not many students question it when faced with the multitude of other numbers thrown at them by the LHS Program of Studies. With 28 credits a year (27 for seniors), including 16 total in english, math, social studies, and 18 in science, these numbers are thrown around casually, without much explanation.

The frustrating element for students is the fact that none of these numbers seem to agree with each other. 104 credits to graduate, but if you go by the yearly minimum, you end up with 111. Hmm. Maybe adding up the minimum requirements in each subject will bring a "familiar" number. 90, however, is neither familiar nor above the graduation requirement.

The magic number, although arbitrary, is a fair benchmark to make sure that everyone does a certain level of work and generally earns their diploma. But the individual subject requirements are misapplied attempts to create well-rounded students.

It is understandable to require 16 credits in english, math, social studies, and 18 credits in science. This is the equivalent of four full years in each subject. Requirements for core subjects make sure that students get a general education instead of a narrow tutoring. When the requirements stretch, however, to fine and performing arts, foreign languages, and physical education, they act more to stifle a student than to aid them.

Can it truly be argued that a student on varsity debate, with an interest in politics and foreign relations, should have his opportunity to work the podium taken away in favor of working the pottery wheel? Or to have a student who aspires to be accepted into the Rhode Island School of Design, yet spends four hours a week learning about e pluribus unum? Or how about the three-sport player who is dogging his way through C-block volleyball, 'conserving energy' for a practice only hours away?

It can be argued that these students can still take the courses they are inter-

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Dear Leader: Local Scene Revivers

Photo Credit: David Ganzi

Will Chaflin (left) sits beside Aaron Perrino while he does his best Robert Smith impression.

By David Ganzi

After the Pixies dissolved in the early nineties, Boston has been left without a local band to call their own. Yet one man, lead vocalist and guitarist Aaron Perrino, seems up to the task. Perrino's first effort to revive the Boston music scene was The Sheila Divine. TSD lead a successful albeit short career, winning the 2000 NEMO Boston Music Awards in three categories: Album of The Year, Outstanding Male Vocalist, and Outstanding Rock Band. Yet the band crumbled under the heels of the overbearing music business.

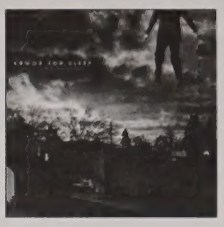
Perrino, however, still maintained a side project called Dear Leader. Since its emergence in February 2003, Dear Leader has become one of Boston's premiere bands and continued the legacy that The Sheila Divine left behind. With the influences of The Cure, Joy Division, and other dramatic bands of the eighties, listeners and critics agree that DL is a band to look out for. Combine Perrino's own emotive vocals, refined studio sound, and stereo-filling guitar, DL remains true to its own unique style.

Dear Leader has already been recognized by The Boston Globe, and made it onto Paul Driscol's Top 9 on WFNX with their song "Raging Red". Newbury Comics has a steady supply of DL albums coming to shelves, and the group even has three nominations for the 2004 Boston Music Awards. DL has released two full length LP's: The Good Times Are Killing Me, and their new release All I Ever Wanted Was Tonight.

To see what all the hype is about, attend one of Dear Leader's many concerts around Boston. They play clubs often, with their most recent show on March 5 at The Paradise. To listen to Dear Leader for free, visit their website at www.dear-leader.com.

Armor for Sleep

By David Ganzi



Lump in the alternative sound of Crossfade, sprinkle the acoustic blend of Our Lady Peace, and mix the emotional aura of Cold to brew the sound of Armor For Sleep. Balancing a rich, alternative sound with songwriter and lead singer Ben Jorgenson's powerful yet pleasant vocals, AFS creates music resembling a more studio-driven version of Thursday.

According to senior Justin Wan, "They are rough, gritty teenage emotion served cold with guitar and drums." Their indie sound is sure to strike chords with many. Hailing from New Jersey, the members of AFS are part of an independent label, Equal Vision records, and have released the albums "Dream to Make Believe" and "What To Do When You Are Dead". Jorgenson noted that though their first album received much acclaim, their second work better represents their unique Emo-pop sound. Jorgenson also added that their second album deals more with cinematic scenes and presents a literary presence in the music that shows their growing maturity from their first album.

AFS has been touring all across the United States for the past two years, and the success of their debut album has proven their potential to break into the mainstream. Though they still have yet to play in arenas such as the FleetCenter or Madison Square Garden, they nonetheless have a steadily growing fan base.

Songs such as "Remember to Feel Real" and "Kind of Perfect" offer passionate lyrics while still managing to stay away from a sappy overtone. Others like "Basement Ghost Singing" include heart-pumping drumbeats that give the songs more of a punk rock feel similar to the likes of Blink-182 and Lit, though ridding itself of the repetitiveness and lack of musical variation.

History Day Winners Advance to State Competition

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Jinhee Oh, Hannah Mackenzie-Margulies, Geoa Geer, and Rebecca Licht.

In the media project division, sophomores Katherine Mechling and the team of Sarah Wasser and Mika Edgerly were both selected to advance to regionals. Eight students in the research paper division were also selected to move on to the regional level: juniors Malcolm Campbell, Aurelia Chaudhury, Michael Coutu, Grace Jhe, Jennifer Kozin, Yi Yi Lu, Visali Ramanathan, and Lisa Schlecht. The research papers had a strict limit of between 1,500 and 2,500 words.

These projects were presented at the regional competition held at Winchester High School on March 5. The overall mood at regionals was more formal in comparison to the LHS competition. In the judging process, each student went into a room and had a judge ask questions about their project. Everyone still got a chance, however, to walk around and look at the other projects.

Mackenzie-Margulies commented on how different the environment at regionals was compared to the school competition. "The atmosphere at regionals was very tense and all of the projects were very impressive. The school competition was much more relaxed." She commented on a few of the impressive exhibits she saw at the festival, including a miniature Native American home.

The first and second place winners of the regional competition will be moving on to the state competition at Clark University in Worchester on April 9th. The first place winner was Jennifer Kozin for her research paper "Slave Songs: A System of Communication," and the second place award went to Katherine Mechling for her media project "The History of Railroads".

The honorable mention went to Aurelia Chaudhury's paper "Military Communications in the Civil War," and the Archive Award: Best Use of Primary Sources went to Jinhee Oh's paper "The Political Influence of the Suez Canal". The winners of the state competition will be eligible to move on to the national competition, which will be held at the University of Maryland from June 12-16.

Credit Distribution Requirements Hamper Student Choice

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ested in while meeting all the requirements. Is it fair, however, to ask these students to take 30, sometimes 32 credits each year in order to take the courses that will enrich them well beyond their high school experience? In the stress-saturated environment that is LHS, the administration is constantly trying to accommodate the students and relieve them of stress, yet still exudes enormous pressure on the students who want to focus on the interest that will carry them throughout their life.

Physical education requirements are law, in an effort to make sure all students maintain a certain level of activeness. Student-athletes who give it their all, six days a week for months at a time, are still required to take the same amount of PE classes as the students whose only physical activity during the week are their two blocks of dance. Bills have been addressed in the LHS Senate to make after-school athletes exempt from gym classes. Several times, however, this bill has not passed. Not only does gym take energy away from these athletes, but it can take half of a block letter on their schedule, stopping them from taking a course that is offered in those blocks.

Last year the administration introduced a new policy called Student Choice. In this policy, seniors can 'opt out' of a core subject (science, math, or social studies), and not have to meet the full requirements in that subject. This does create more flexibility for some students, but does not address the students who want to take these subjects but are not interested in the arts or languages. It is not practical to allow students to forgo a core subject but still require them to take courses in something that will be critical in the future for a narrow set of graduates.

Credit requirements in the arts, languages, and physical education hamper the individuality of students who would rather pursue a personal interest in a different field. Eliminating these requirements will not create immediate slackers out of the students who do not have one focus. The yearly requirements and the magic number 104 will make sure these students still complete a full workload. Beyond that, eliminating the subject requirements would not change these students' schedules as they will dabble in a wide range of subjects without a specific interest. It is time the administration abandons the archaic form of the graduation requirements and develops a newer, more practical one that allows all students to accomplish what they want in high school.

Swim Team Finishes Season

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first place in the 100-yard butterfly. Some other notable individual performances included senior Matt Carper placing first in the 100-yard breastroke, sophomore Lee Chiang placing second in the 500-yard freestyle and senior tri-captain Matt Li placing fifth in the 100-yard butterfly. Everyone on the team swam great and contributed to the win.

Some of the Minuteman swimmers participated in the MIAA boys' state championship meet that took place at Harvard University. Lexington did very well and finished fourth in the state meet behind BC High, St. Johns Prep and Chelmsford. Carper placed first in the 100-yard breastroke with a time of 1:01, and placed fifth in the 50-yard freestyle. O'Brien placed first in the 100-yard breastroke and second in the 100-yard butterfly. The medley relay team, comprised of Carper, O'Brien, sophomore Alex Teng, and freshman Stephen Chang, finished in second place. LHS finished 11th in the 200-yard freestyle relay and ninth in the 4x100 relay. Each swimmer swam their best times of the season at the championship, which is what is hoped for at the culminating meet of the season.

Coach Donna Cerrato said, "I am happy for them because they just worked so hard." O'Brien also remarked, "We sent four swimmers for individual events, and finished in fourth place, and that is very good."

Boys and Girls Track Teams Excel in Post-Season

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ing to this senior's incredible track career. The super sophomores, Paschal and Longo, showed that age was of no consequence in their respective events. Longo placed 3rd in the mile at 4:34, and Paschal, the #1 seed for the high jump, did not disappoint, finishing first with a jump of 6 feet, 5 inches. Finally, the 4x800 relay team of Morris, Longo, Ballenthin, and sophomore Alex Lach placed 2nd with a time of 8:12.

A performance of this magnitude would have been sufficiently satisfying for most sports teams, but the boys track team had higher ambitions. Lexington placed 3rd at the State Tournament, securing its place among the elite teams in the state. Leading the way once again were league all-stars Morris, Ballenthin, Longo, Paschal, and Cunha. Even after their impressive performances in the prior week, each of the five improved their times or heights from the last meet.

Cunha placed 3rd again at 7.75 seconds in the 55 m hurdles, Ballenthin placed 2nd in the 1000m with 2:31, Longo finished 3rd in the mile at 4:26, Morris finished 3rd in the 2-mile with 9:37, and Paschal finished 2nd in the high jump with an astounding leap of 6 feet 7 inches.

"We did phenomenal," said Ballenthin, when asked about the team's performance. Assessing the year as a whole, Ballenthin thought that this team "clearly had the strongest effort in years." Hopefully, with a number of returning stars, the team will continue its outstanding run in indoor track next year.

While the boys' performance was one of the greatest in recent memory, the girls track team cannot be forgotten. The girls had a great season once again, finishing 2nd in the league with a record of 7-1-1. All season, the Minutemen had many great performances, which led to 7 league all-stars from the team. Freshman Elisabeth Kernan, juniors Jess Batty, Katherine Foster, Sharikka Finley-Moise and Libby Mislan, seniors Trisha Domings and Janelle Eloi all were voted all-stars for their respective events.

The team was led all season by senior captains Marilyn Heymann, Julia Bond, and Olivia Chuang. Unfortunately for the team, there were many injuries before the end of the season class meet, which left Lexington undermanned. Even so, the Minutemen saw standout performances from Finley-Moise in the 55m dash, Domings in the long jump, Heymann in the mile, and sophomore Lily Fesler in the 600m.

When asked to sum up the season, Heymann replied, "The team put forth a really admirable effort, and developed a lot of team unity. We were a really strong team, but unfortunately we suffered a lot of injuries. Still, there is a lot of potential for the upcoming years." There is no doubt that there is plenty of potential for this young team, and both the boys and the girls should be able to put forth impressive indoor campaigns in the 05-06 season.

Girls Basketball Finishes Season

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just making it into the tournament was a great accomplishment for the team. Entering the tournament, the girls were slated to play 4th seed Acton-Boxboro, a powerful team with a 6'5" senior who controlled the offensive and defensive boards. As the game got underway, it was obvious that both teams had come to play for their right to move on.

With great play from Chisholm, Adams and sophomore Michele Martini, the girls kept it very close the entire game. Lexington were within two points at all times and even took the lead at one point. As the game came down to the wire, Lexington just did not have enough to pull off the win. Despite giving Acton-Boxboro a run for their money, the girls lost 57-52.

Despite the loss, there were many positives from the season that outweighed the Acton-Boxboro game. In the annual all-star game, Lexington was represented by Chisholm and sophomore Jessie Igoe. Adams also represented Lexington in the 3-point contest. Most importantly, this season was filled with great team play and chemistry. Despite having no superstar, the team had the great ability to gel and play together.

The leaders, Adams, Chisholm, Kimball and Reardon did a great job all season, leading the team through tough games and eventually into the tournament. With most of the team returning next year, the future looks good for the team. Next year's captains have been named, with Chisholm, Reardon and Kimball receiving the honors. Also returning are sophomores Igoe, Allie Needham, Molly Boudreau, Annie Sperandio, Michelle Martini, and freshman Nena Ugwuomo.

Junior Kate Kimball, who was sidelined due to injury for the majority of the season, expressed her excitement for next year. "I think we have a great young team, and with Cec, Kara and me returning next year, I think we could really go deep into the tournament."

LHS' National Science Bowl Team Wins Big

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to Yang, NSB is popular because it is a fun and exciting competition similar to Jeopardy. Practices include mock competitions between the A, B, C and D teams with LHS's very own buzzer system. In addition, the LHS team has gone up against a team formed by LHS science teachers (the A and D teams both beat the teachers, though experience with the buzzers was said to be a factor).

When asked how the team became so modish, Yang replied, "Some people join to win, since we have gone to Nationals in the past. Also, NSB has good word of mouth and each fall we encourage members to bring their friends to tryouts." NSB is not only a trendy after-school activity but a way to revive interest in science. According to Yang, NSB helps people in their science classes because it makes them more interested in their courses.

The LHS NSB team practices two hours per week, pushing it up to four hours per week during the month preceding the competition. In comparison, some other schools hold regular practices, but many teams are thrown together just days before the meet. As a result, the LHS A team beat most of its competition by a factor of three or four.

LHS met its main rival, Lincoln-Sudbury, in the semi-finals. Since Lincoln-Sudbury is Lexington's next-door neighbor, as well as the team that beat LHS's National Ocean Science Bowl team a week earlier, LHS was eager to come out ahead.

In a close match, even with a late comeback by Lincoln-Sudbury, LHS pulled off the coveted win. The A team secured the regional competition by beating the Cambridge Rindge and Latin team in the finals.

The A team, composed of seniors Yang, Albert Chen, Andrew Ho, Jason Leung and junior Joseph Chang, has been together as a team since the beginning of this school year. Many of them have been a part of the larger NSB team for the past three or four years.

According to Chen, the team is looking strong for the future with good underclassmen on the C and D teams including freshman Sway Chen. Notably, at the regional competition, the LHS C team came in fourth place overall. Until April, though, thoughts of the future will be pushed aside as the A team focuses on their coming bid in Washington DC.

Weighted GPA Bill

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year's incoming freshmen class. In order to turn this proposal into legislation, the Senate will have to vote to reconsider the originally passed bill and then amend it to meet Jones' suggestions.

Recruitment Bill

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legislation that attacks an organization that is working hard to preserve our freedoms and social liberties." Buttaro disagreed, explaining that the military would still be discussed as a potential career. Members of the military would still be able to come speak to classes, and material about the military would be available in the career center. The bill would, however, not allow them to actively recruit unless the Military changes its policy regarding gay, lesbian, and bisexual members.

Currently, the way the school policy works relative to outside recruiters is that they must contact either the principal or the guidance director and ask if they can come into LHS and set up a table. Unless the recruiters represent a truly questionable organization they are usually allowed to recruit at LHS as a matter of course.

Many supporters of the bill do not feel that the bill is anti-military. The intent of the bill was to compel the military and other groups to be more inclusive in their recruitment policies. Math teacher Albert Roos said that it was his dream when he was younger to be in the military. Now he wants the military to be "open to anyone who wants to be a part of it."

The Senate will now most likely be pursuing the idea of a revised recruiters bill, or a resolution stating its support for not allowing organizations with discriminatory policies to come to LHS for recruitment purposes.

Wrestlers Learn the Hard Way

By Mike Grossi

. The 2004-05 Lexington varsity wrestling team was full of youth and inexperience. The season provided a rollercoaster experience that comes with any young squad. The team won two of their first four matches, but the Minutemen completed their season with a 4-14 record. Though the Minutemen's record may suggest otherwise, the team fought hard all year long.

Along with senior co-captains Jason Barth and Alex Dixon, freshman Mike Bittarelli, junior Karthik Sugumaran, and senior Casey Pellegrino consistently beat their opponents, providing the bulk of the points for the team. These elite wrestlers were able to finish high in the rankings in their tournaments.

In the Wakefield tournament, Sugumaran placed fifth in the 119 weight class, Barth placed third in the 152 weight class, and Bittarelli placed fourth in the 135 weight class. In the Pentucket Tournament, Bittarelli placed third in the 140 weight class, posting a 5–1 record in his matches. Along with these outstanding contributors, freshmen Reid Mosquera and Cameron Rawnsey showed that the future of Lexington wrestling is bright.

Although Lexington was an inexperienced team that struggled through numerous injuries to their top wrestlers, they were still able to pull out a positive mindset from the disappointing season. Bittarelli said, "We had a ton of inexperience on the team this year, many first time wrestlers. But now we have found out there is a lot of potential for next year due to the play of our rookies."

Science Fair

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regional fair to the state fair and will represent Lexington at MIT in early May: freshmen Lina Colucci, Rachel Perlman, Sohini Pillai; sophomores Leah Bonnell, Rebecca Grunberg, Mio Kitayama, Christine Lan, Arjun Ramamurti, Mark Saldana, Stephanie Zheng; juniors Malcolm Campbell, Kapil Dilwali, Donald Rauscher, Peter Geon Kim, Jenny Lin, Katie Pilbeam, Visali Ramanathan, Karthik Sugumaran; seniors Crystal Chang and Lena Sawin. Congratulations to all participants and winners!

Asian Night

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song in Bengali.

The LHS Breakdance Club dazzled the audience with their impressive moves, with both solos and combinations of breakdancers. A group of Asian Culture Club members, including senior co-presidents Wong and Felicia Au danced to the song "Number One" by Korean pop singer BoA.

The Chinese Yo-Yo Club, despite a few false starts, showed off an extensive array of tricks. Junior club leaders Bryan Kao, Edwin Yu, and Austin Lee were especially impressive, tossing their yo-yos through their legs, over their shoulders, and high into the air to complete complicated tricks. Junior Sonam Dilwali and sophomore Nina Muralidhar of the Desi Dance Club danced to Bollywood style music from India. The final performance consisted of several Chinese hammered dulcimer tunes, performed skillfully by a group of dulcimer players.

Boys Basketball Topped in Double Overtime

By Stuart Easton

After a successful first half of the season, the LHS boys basketball team entered the second half of the season with Middlesex League championship aspirations, as well hopes of making a run deep into the state tournament. These hopes took a hit as the Minutemen opened up their second half with wins at Reading, Burlington, Stoneham, and Winchester, only to suffer a crushing loss to Woburn. In this battle, Woburn was looking to avenge their double-overtime loss earlier in the season, and managed to do so behind the strong play of sophomore guard Greg Colarusso who had 24 points.

The Minutemen, however, were able to bounce back with three solid wins against Melrose, Winchester, and Wakefield before their much-anticipated showdown with Watertown. Entering the contest with the Red Raiders, the Minutemen knew they would have to beat Watertown on their home court if they wanted to win the Middlesex League title. Junior forward Jimmy O'Keefe came up huge, scoring 36 of Lexington's 67 points. In the end however, O'Keefe and the rest of the Lexington team came up just short and were edged 69-67 by the Red Raiders. To add insult to injury, the Minutemen were fractions of an inch away from winning the game as senior Zack Friedman had a half-court shot bounce off the rim as the buzzer sounded.

Lexington bounced back and won their next two games in the Middlesex league, which were against Reading and Burlington. They finished the season with a 16-4 mark, 15-3 in the Middlesex league.

When the seeds finally came out for the state tournament, Lexington's 16-4 record got them a fourth seed in the D1 North bracket, which meant that they would be facing a tough, athletic Everett team. From the start, it was obvious that the game would be close. Lexington was able to score by breaking the Everett press, but the Crimson Tide answered each Lexington basket with one of their own.

Coming out of the break, the Minutemen executed well and were able to hold a ten point lead with less than four minutes to play. Everett, however, did not give up and they were able to tie the game thanks to the hot shooting of Jason O'Keefe. Lexington got the ball at the end of the game and was able to get junior co-captain Armen Adamian (17 points) a jump shot from the foul line, which just rimmed out as the buzzer sounded and sent the game into overtime.

Lexington's O'Keefe (32 points, 11 rebounds) started the first overtime off with a bang, as he was able to score on the first four possessions of the extra period. Again, the resilient Everett team used Jason O'Keefe's shooting to tie the game and send it into its second overtime. When this second five-minute stanza started, the fatigue on both sides was evident, as many of the players had already played more than thirty minutes as opposed to a typical twenty to twenty-five. This fatigue would eventually spell the end for the Minutemen, as they were down by three with less than ten seconds to go. They did, however, have a chance to send it into a third overtime but sophomore Tom Henneberry's three-point heave at the buzzer bounced off the rim.

Although the loss was disappointing, there is no denying that the Minutemen surprised many people this year. They will be very strong next year, since they are only losing two members of their varsity squad. Adamian commented, "No one gave us a chance this year and we still had a shot at the league title right down to the end. If we work hard this off-season, who knows what we will be able to do next year with the talent that we have. Overall, it was a fun year in which we were able to win a lot of games."

Despite the bitter ending, this year's Lexington boys basketball team provided an enjoyable year for all its fans, and a promise to be just as exciting in the years to come.

Photo Credit: Yeajin An

Varsity Boys' Hockey had a great season this year.

Illustrious Boys Hockey Season Comes to an End

By Arjun Gokhale

The Lexington boys hockey team sure had one heck of a season. They were able to make the Boston Globe's weekly top 20 ranking during the middle of the season, and possessed a nearly impenetrable defense. They finished 12-8-2 and made the playoffs, something no other Lexington team had done in over two decades. Great coaching by Mike Keegan was able to bring out the best in the players, producing six All Stars including All League sophomore goaltender John Bienkowski.

As the 8th seed in the Northern Division, the Minutemen sent a message to the rest of the league with a solid 7-3 victory over Westford Academy in their first playoff game. Leading 4-3 with 5 minutes to go in the game, Lexington put 3 quick goals on the board and pulled away.

The Minutemen then travelled to Salem where they faced the Woburn Tanners. After a scoreless first period, the Tanners were the first to draw blood, scoring midway through the 2nd period. With sophomore Nick Pisegna's goal late in the 3rd, the Minutemen tied it up and sent it to OT. One overtime period was played that night and the score remained the same. Play was stopped and the game restarted the following evening, because league rules state that only 4 periods can be played on a given night.

What ensued ended up being one of the longest games in league history. In the second period of the day and seventh of the game the Tanners were able to get a tipped shot past Bienkowski, thus ending the Minutemen's most successful season in 24 years in heartbreaking fashion.

After the game, goalie Bienkowski reflected on the shot that ended the season, "It was a 2 on 1, he skated in on from the left circle and let the shot go. It tipped off our defensemen's skate and got by me."

There were many bright spots on the team. Senior forward Steve Chiracosta emerged as a potent offensive force and tallied multiple goals in the game against Westford Academy. Senior Jesse Spartachino and junior Alex Abramo led a fierce, hard hitting defense. Sophomores Bienkowski and Pisegna should provide the foundation for a great team in the years to come.

Girls Basketball Team Finishes Strong

By Ani Sanyal

If you had asked anyone on the girl's varsity basketball team at the beginning of the season if they thought that they would make the tournament come February, most would have said no. With only one returning senior, Kelly Adams, the 04-05 season had been dubbed as a 'rebuilding' year with modest goals and expectations from players and coaches. It turned out, however, a little different than everyone expected.

The season started off rough, with tough losses to Melrose at home and other league opponents on the road. Since there was only one senior on the team, the team had to look to new leaders on the court to help guide them into the tournament.

Led by juniors Ceciley Chisholm, Kate Kimball and Kara Reardon, the team began making strides during the middle of the season with key wins at home. This included a win over Woburn where Chisholm went off with 23 points, leading the team to a decisive victory. Chisholm had an outstanding year, and constant praise poured in from coaches and players alike. "She played her best when we needed her," remarked Kimball. "Cec did a great job not only on the offensive, but her defense and overall hustle was great all year."

As the season wound down, the team stood at one game under .500 with one game remaining. A win against Burlington would send them into the tournament. Playing at home in front of a supporting crowd, the girls came out firing, knowing their whole season depended on one game. Led by Reardon and Chisholm, the girls pulled off an emphatic victory over Burlington, giving them the 13th seed in the tournament. "I'm so happy," exclaimed Reardon after the game. "This was our most important game, and we gave it our all and came out victorious."

Regardless of how things turned out,

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Boys Swim Team Cops League Title

By Stuart Grimes

The LHS boys varsity swim team captured its seventh straight Middlesex League title after defeating Burlington 85-78 in the final meet of the season. With the win, the Minutemen finished their outstanding season with a final record of 5-0 in the Middlesex League and a record of 10-1 overall.

The swimmers then proceeded to win the Middlesex League Meet. Lexington placed first with a total of 354 points, ahead of the Belmont (229) and third place Reading (227). The 354 points surpassed the mark that the talented team scored last year at the post-season meet. Lexington won both the 200-yard medley and the 200-yard freestyle relays, and junior tri-captain Matt O'Brien secured

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Track Shines in Post-Season

By Kevin Slane

Following an impressive regular season, the Lexington boys track team exceeded all expectations in the Division I and All-State meets at the Reggie Lewis Track Center. Facing the top teams in the northeast at the Division I meet, the Minutemen placed an impressive 3rd, scoring 45 points. The team was led by their five league all-stars, junior Willi Ballenthin, senior Paul Morris, sophomores Brian Longo and Meikle Paschal, and senior John Cunha, who was also named "Outstanding Performer" by league officials.

Ballenthin placed 2nd in the 1000m with a time of 2:30, while Cunha earned 3rd place in the 55m hurdles with a time of 7.76 seconds. Long distance standout Morris finished 3rd in the 2-mile at 9:40, add-

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